

A bill of \$176,000. Right now the state is spending \$342,000, \$342,339.40 in fact, paying for this kind of education where those kids are unfortunately in some cases sent outside their school district for this kind of particular and special care. That pretty much says it. I could go into a lot more detail but I think that says it all. It simply provides a clarification of that first definition for how we should use educational funds to provide for public school needs for kids with disabilities and it would simply say wherever they go the state will pay that. Remember, we're spending about \$342,000 now but also remember with the budget before us this means that we would have to spend \$176,000 a year to provide for this. I would ask for your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Discussion on the amendment, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Baack, I just for the record here, I support the amendment, was a co-sponsor of, am a co-sponsor of this amendment along with Senator Conway, was a co-sponsor of LB 279 which is a bill that contained this policy option that Senator Lynch is bringing us. Education Committee did have a public hearing on this issue. No one testified against it. The Education Committee advanced the bill 6 to 0 and there appears to be little controversy with this particular issue, so I'd urge people to support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President, I, too, rise in support of Senator Lynch's amendment to LB 719 which would allow the Department of Social Services to reimburse the educational costs for state wards. I am very familiar with the good work of the Uta Halee Girls Village and I am very pleased with the work that they have done with troubled girls and can recall during our fatal two years of the Franklin Committee of the girls that needed psychiatric treatment or good schooling and were sent to Uta Halee and in turn have come out of there with a much more improved state of life and the state wards who reside in the Omaha public school district are not placed at Uta Halee at the present time for their education and are placed in other facilities such as the psychiatric hospitals at an enormous charge and some of them from 450 to \$600 a day compared to Uta Halee's at \$121 a day, so I commend Senator Lynch for bringing the amendment to us. It's a good amendment and in the long run